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## New Appointment For General Sir Brian Robertson

London, Mar. 16.—General Sir Brian Robertson, the British High Commissioner in Germany, has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Middle East Land Forces. The appointment was approved by the King.

He will be succeeded as High Commissioner by a civilian, Sir Ivone Kirkpatrick, Under-Secretary in charge of the German Department at the Foreign Office.

The Foreign Office and War Office announcement reporting General Robertson's appointment said that he will succeed General Sir John T. Crocker in about June. General Crocker is to be Adjutant-General of the Forces in September.

General Robertson was a Cadet at Sandhurst—Britain's famous military college—when the 1914-18 War broke out. His father was Field Marshal Sir William Robertson—the first soldier in the British Army to rise from a private to the rank of a Field Marshal.

### WITH EIGHTH ARMY

General Robertson served in the Army throughout the first World War and for some time after, but in 1933, after his father died and he succeeded to the title, he went into business as an official of the Dunlop Rubber Company in South Africa.

When war broke out in 1939, General Robertson joined the South African forces. His reputation went higher and higher—through the campaigns in Italian Somaliland and Abyssinia—until in June, 1942, he

was made Deputy Adjutant and Quartermaster General to Britain's crack Eighth Army.

He went with the Eighth Army all the way to El Alamein.

His administrative qualities were picked out again when he was made Governor of Tripoli.

He built up the civilian services in this battle-torn area.

He finished the war as Field Marshal Alexander's chief administrative officer in Sicily and Italy, and was appointed Chief of Staff under Field Marshal Montgomery in 1945.

In postwar Germany he got one of the most exacting jobs that has ever faced a British military man—administering the British Zone with its millions of war-shocked people and shattered cities and communications.

Tall, spare and with piercing blue eyes and fair hair, he was an authoritative and dominating personality. He dealt fairly but firmly with the Germans.

He was Britain's "No. 1" diplomat.—Reuter.

### Malaya Rubber For Russia

Penang, Mar. 16.—Malaya is to send Russia some 15,000 tons of rubber this month.

One ship is loading about 8,000 tons from Malayan ports this week and another is due to take another consignment next week.

Both ships are destined for Odessa.

According to official Penang trade statistics, Russia re-entered the local rubber market last month, purchasing 1,083 tons.—Reuter.

### RIOTS CASUALTIES

New Delhi, Mar. 16.—A government spokesman said today that at least 600 Hindus were killed on the East Bengal railway between Jamalpur and Barrackpore in recent rioting between Moslems and Hindus. He added: "Travelling Hindus will not be safe on this line."—United Press.

### GENERAL ROBERTSON

## EDITORIAL

### Public And The Budget

THAT the Hongkong Reform Club should call an open meeting to discuss the 1950-51 Budget is an encouraging sign that some degree of interest can yet be shown in this important subject. What remains to be seen, however, is the public response to this opportunity for expressing opinion on a question which affects, to some extent, the daily lives of the majority of the Colony's inhabitants. The Hongkong Reform Club probably has not forgotten the public apathy towards its endeavours to unearth popular opinion regarding constitutional reform, and in view of this experience, which could almost be described as humiliating, credit must be given to the Club for trying yet again to awaken public consciousness over a vital issue. Next Tuesday's meeting is designed to obtain some representative reactions to the latest Budget; it is also a challenge to the so-called Pro Bono Publico of Hongkong for them to demonstrate whether or not they are willing and capable of giving vent to their feelings and convictions; whether the Budget means nothing more to them than an intricate maze of figures, or whether they appreciate it as the most important piece of annual legislation introduced by Government. Budget figures taken in the mass are bewildering, but from them can be discerned a pattern of spending which may or may not be acceptable—according to the point of view. It has been stated that the prime object of the Reform Club's meeting is to explain to the public the whys, hows, and wheresof of revenue raising. This is useful, up to a point, but it covers only one aspect of the Budget. The other is expenditure, particularly the question of whether the Colony receives proper value for the millions of dollars which are being officially spent every year. The greatest single item in the Estimates is the administrative costs, i.e., the cost of government. Personal emoluments, H.C.L.

### Improved Situation Permits Reduction Of HK Garrison

The military authorities consider that the situation in South China has improved sufficiently to warrant a slight reduction in Hongkong's garrison in order to meet military needs elsewhere, said the official Army spokesman this morning.

Discussing the decision to transfer the 26th

Infantry Brigade from Hongkong to Malaya to help in the anti-bandit campaign there, the spokesman said the move can be regarded as a permanent one and, according to present plans, the Brigade will not be replaced by other troops.

He pointed out, however, that should the need arise, the Brigade could easily be recalled from Malaya.

No date has yet been set for the Brigade's departure, as transport facilities and arrangements for its reception in Malaya will first have to be settled. The 26th Infantry Brigade consists of the 2/6 and 2/10 Gurkha Rifles and the 1st Battalion, Cameronians.

Departure of this Brigade will still leave about 28,000 troops in Hongkong.

### Seretse Khama To Be Allowed, Temporarily, To Return To His Tribe

London, Mar. 16.—Britain's Labour Government, attacked from all sides over the Seretse Khama affair, agreed today to let the exiled African go back temporarily to the Bamangwato tribe and his pregnant English wife.

It also announced that a White Paper would be published, lifting the veil from many of the reasons why Seretse, chieftain-designate of the tribe, has been banned from his home for five years.

The Commonwealth Minister, Mr. Patrick Gordon-Walker, told Parliament that 27-year-old Seretse would be allowed to return from London to Bechuanaland to collect evidence for a law-suit about his inheritance.

But the Government has not climbed down over the ban on Seretse, whose troubles began when his uncle, Tshekedi, former Regent of the tribe, declared a feud over his nephew's marriage to a white girl.

Tshekedi has also been exiled for five years by the Government.

The Minister, who faced hostility from a number of the

Government's own supporters, declared that the length of the Pro-Seretse's stay within the Protectorate and his movements there would be kept under review by the British Government, having regard to his conduct and the interests of order and good government.

He added that it might be necessary to apply certain conditions to his return, but they would not restrict his liberty regarding his law-suit.

### TO PAY PASSAGE

The Government had also agreed to pay the cost of his air passage and a bill of legal expenses incurred from his visit to London.

Mr. Gordon-Walker said he had told Khama that arrangements would be made for him and his wife, a former London typist, Ruth Williams, to be together around the time of her confinement.

The length of his stay and his movements within the Protectorate of Bechuanaland would be kept under review by the Government, having regard to his conduct and the interest of good order and good government in the territory, he added.

A Government statement would be issued as soon as possible setting out in greater detail the facts and considerations that led the Government to its decision to withhold recognition.

Mr. Gordon-Walker, answering Seretse's question, made it clear that Seretse Khama would be allowed to return to the tribal reserve to take personal evidence for his law-suit.

### RECOGNITION WITHHELD

The Minister also said that it had been decided to withhold recognition of Seretse Khama as chief. That implied that he had not been decided to refuse recognition.

Later, when the House was discussing next week's Parliamentary business, the Liberal leader, Mr. Clement Davies, said:

"I should like to have gone unconditionally, but there are certain terms unacceptable".

He declined to state what the terms were, but intimated that he would continue to fight the Government's five-year ban.

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### £3 Mil. Loan For Our Airport

London, Mar. 16.—The British Government has made loan provision for a £3,000,000 loan to the Hongkong Government to meet expenditure on the construction of an air port, the Civil Estimates for 1950-51, which were published today.

The loan will be free of interest and the terms of repayment will be settled later.

It is not required immediately, but token provision is made in order that Parliament's approval of arrangements may be obtained.

The Estimates include £150,000 or a grant of £250,000 in respect of the University of Hongkong.—Reuter.

### Chinese Reds Take Mr. Keswick's Shai Houses Away From Him

Mrs. Claire Keswick is wondering where she will live in Shanghai when she rejoins her husband there early next week.

Her husband, Mr. John Keswick, head of Measra Jardine, Matheson and Co., Ltd., owns two palatial houses in the Hungtse district of Shanghai, but they have both been requisitioned by the Chinese Communist authorities to accommodate Russian advisers who are said to be pouring into China since the conclusion of the Sino-Soviet treaty.

Mr. Keswick is leaving Hongkong tomorrow by the General Gordon, which is ex-

pected to take away 1,000 foreign residents from China.

The day, however, will bring with sadness for Mrs. Keswick, for this will be saying goodbye to her eight-year-old daughter, Margaret, who is returning on the same day to England by the ss Canton to continue her schooling.

Mr. Keswick is at present in Tientsin but is expected to return to Shanghai in time to meet his wife. Since his two houses were requisitioned, he has taken a flat in town. It is understood.

News leaking through the Chinese "Bamboo Curtain" says the Chinese Communists have taken over 2,000 houses near Shanghai's Hungtse airfield for the use of the Russian

advisers. Among the houses belonging to Britons that have been taken over is "The Limit," the last house on the highway before the airfield, belonging to Bill Hawkins, who with his wife, Gladys, have lived there over 30 years.

Gladys Hawkins refused to budge from the property last summer when the Nationalists were preparing their "last ditch" defence, which proved more impressive in propaganda releases than in actual practice.

She was the Union Jack flying from her garden for over 30 years, despite many upheavals, but from the flagstaff now flies the Hammer and Sickle of the USSR.

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### Britain To Spend More On Colonies

London, Mar. 16.—Britain will spend £6,846,500 more on developing her Colonies in the next 12 months, but the grant to Malaya in aid of local revenues is cut by £2,000,000, bringing it down to £3,000,000.

This was announced today with the publication of Government estimates for the Foreign and Imperial Services in the financial year ending March 31, 1951.

The extra money for Colonial development is the biggest item in an overall increase in the services of £13,787,045. The total estimate is £89,019,045. Of this, £19,150,000 will be spent on opening up the resources of the Colonies and improving the welfare of their people.

The next largest increase is £5,443,330 for the general working of the Colonial and Middle East services for which the total estimate is £10,453,770. The main item under this heading is £5,050,000 for war damage compensation schemes in the Far Eastern territories.

On the domestic side, Britain will step up her civil defence costs by £2,316,000 next year. The total bill for England and Wales will be £6,164,270. The cost of training civil defence workers will be down by £272,300, but grants to local authorities will be up £1,530,400.—Reuter.

### Untouchability An Offence

New Delhi, Mar. 16.—The government indicated today that those who continued to practice untouchability, which was abolished by India's new constitution, might soon be liable to prosecution. The announcement said: "The government is considering framing legislation prescribing punishment for offences arising from the practice of untouchability. A bill to this effect will be introduced during the current session of Parliament."—United Press.

### BLAZE ON ROOF OF HOTEL

The Fire Brigade were called to the Great Eastern Hotel, Connaught Road Central, shortly before 9.30 o'clock this morning when a blaze was reported to have broken out on the roof. The firemen discovered that a large basket had caught alight and the flames, which gave rise to some alarm, were quickly extinguished with little damage being done to the establishment.

### RUM!

FOR CHILLY EVENINGS

### "Lemon Hart"

or

### "Clipper"

FOR TODDY

FROM JAMAICA

### Bacardi

FOR COCKTAILS  
FROM CUBA

All Three From

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# NEW X-RAY APPARATUS AT 6TH RADIOLGY CONGRESS

POCKET CARTOON  
by OSBERT LANCASTER



The International Congress of Radiology, which takes place in London this year, is an event of major importance to X-ray specialists—and indeed to all medical men—throughout the world. Normally held at three-yearly intervals, each time in a different country, it is now 13 years since the last Congress was held—in Chicago in 1937.

## Rats To Get Poison Oats, No Coffee

The condemned rats of Hawaii's Kona coast will be served 7,000 pounds of rolled oats and no coffee for their last meal.

The rats probably would order coffee if they had their choice, but the territorial legislature is paying the bill for the meal and it says definitely not.

For years the caffeine-addicted rodents of the "big island" have feasted on the island's third biggest export crop. Kona coffee growers say the damage runs between US\$100,000 and \$200,000 annually.

### BEANS IN DEMAND

The growers need the beans because U.S. coffee handlers use all they can to blend with other products.

This year Kona growers expect slightly under US\$2,000,000 for the coffee, which tastes like the savoury Brazilian bean.

Why the rolled oats? Rats are a wily lot, according to the coffee farmers. A few poisoned beans might catch the more reckless rodents—but their brothers would catch on quickly.

### POISON TO BE ADDED

So feeding stations will be set up throughout the plantations, about four to six for each acre of cultivated land. Oat-filled pans will be placed at the edge of wasteland or stone piles where the rats hang out between coffee hours.

A week is considered long enough to convince the robust coffee connoisseurs that oats are more nutritious and delicious. When the converts start paying nightly visits in large numbers for their free meal, "something new" will be added.

Perhaps some will die from over-eating, but the majority will pass on into rodent heaven from the effects of zinc phosphide poisoning.

## U.S. LIMITING STOCKPILING

London, March 10. The editor of The Times Review of Industry warns, that the dollar earning capacity of the Sterling Area under the terms of the American stockpiling programme should not be overestimated.

The latest report of the United States Munitions Board to Congress, he points out, emphasised that the establishment of an overall balance within the stockpile was of great and immediate importance.

The limitation of funds available for stockpiling made it necessary for the Board to cut down purchases of materials already held in substantial quantities to permit larger purchases of scarcer products. The two chief strategic sterling commodities—

### Fought to Death Over 2d. Tip

Fifty gypsies, including men, women and children, fought a knife and club battle on the outskirts of Seville, Spain, over the outcome of a 2d. tip. Three men, an old woman and two 10-year-old boys were killed on the spot. Three other men died in hospital. Everybody else was more or less severely wounded. The fighting only stopped when there was nobody left to fight.

She said: "I gave him a divorce when he told me he was in love with a younger woman. I did not know the other woman was my daughter." She was told the marriage was legal.

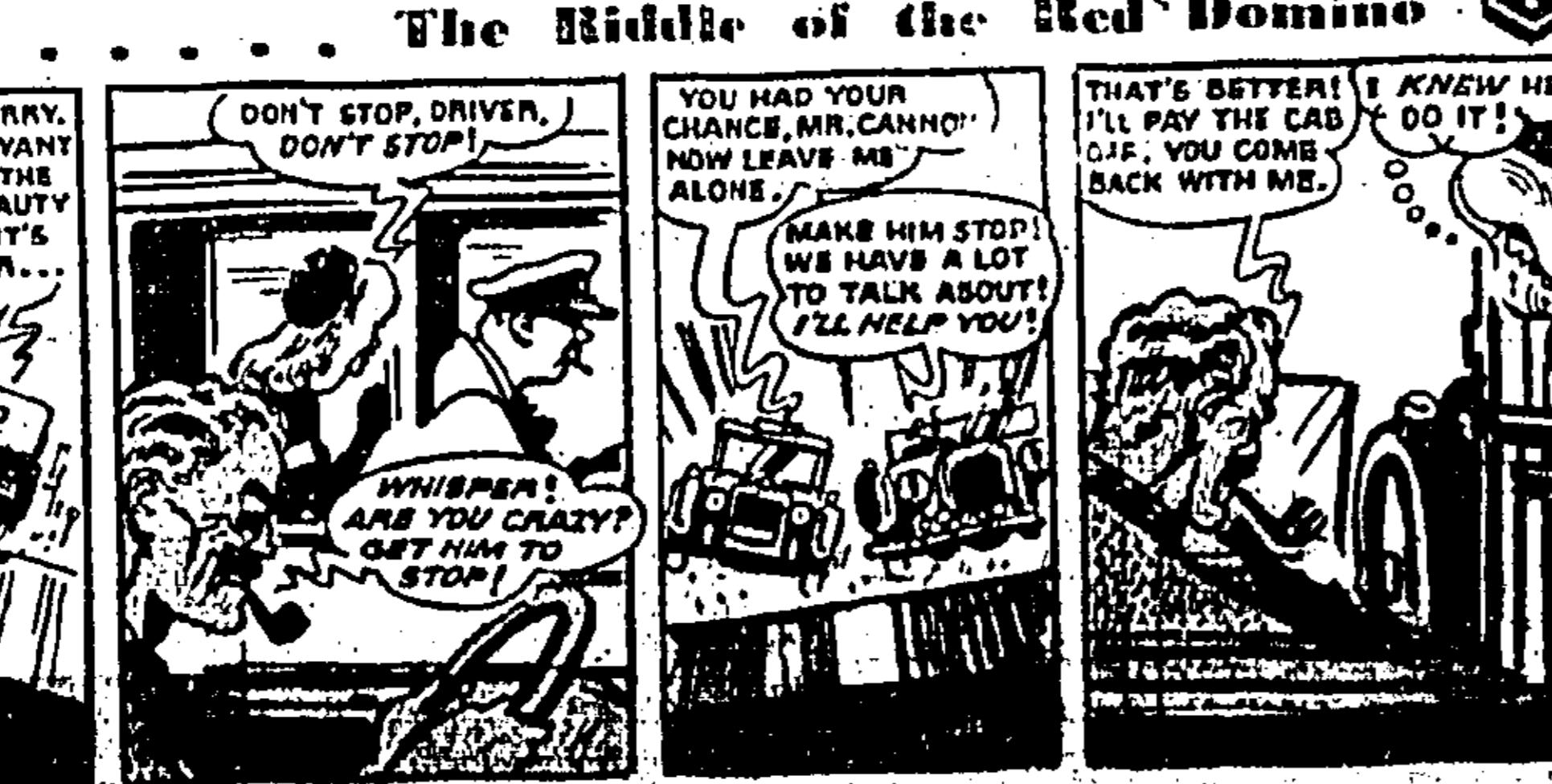
## It's All In The Family

Theodore Borkowski, 58, got a divorce in Cleveland because his 44-year-old second wife, Josephine, wanted to marry his son Chester, aged 38.

In Grand Rapids, Michigan, Mrs. Helen Bishop, 35, tried to upset the marriage of her divorced husband, Victor Bishop, 35, to her 16-year-old daughter Jean by a previous marriage.

She said: "I gave him a divorce when he told me he was in love with a younger woman. I did not know the other woman was my daughter." She was told the marriage was legal.

## K. O. CANNON



# NEWS IN PICTURES



## WRITINGS DISCLOSE AEGEAN CULTURE

A Bulgarian scientist has deciphered Europe's most ancient preserved writings.

Prof. Vladimir Georgiev has "unveiled the Minos (Cretan) writings" which are considered the most ancient preserved written documents in Europe, it was disclosed by the archaeologist, Ivan Velkov in Izgrev, Bulgarian periodical.

Mankind has learned about Aegean culture from the excavations carried on in the past few centuries. Aegean monuments are scattered all over the Mediterranean, but the biggest concentration is in Crete and the Peloponnesus, said Prof. Velkov.

Cretan culture dated back as far as 3,000 B.C. About 1,800 B.C. some unknown catastrophe befell the island and much of its civilisation was wiped out.

The renaissance in Crete came about 1,700 B.C. when the magnificent palaces and other public buildings were constructed. Their ruins indicate the once mighty city of Knossos, ruler of the ancient Mediterranean world.

### INSCRIBED ON CLAY

That was the period connected with the mythical King Minos, his labyrinthine palace and his fabled minotaur. From this time date the most ancient preserved writings in Europe—the so-called Cretan or Minos writings, inscribed on clay tablets. Some 3,000 or 4,000 have been preserved, about one-fourth of which are now published.

It is these writings which Prof. Georgiev has deciphered, according to the article in Izgrev.

Minos writings, the article said, were "picturegraphs," each picturegram being a separate word. This system later developed into a syllabic writing, of which the tablets are examples.

Scientists were aided in their search for the key to the tablets by the knowledge that many of them concerned commercial accounts, lists of names, registers and similar entries.

### ANOTHER AIM

The Times Review of Industry also points out that the American stockpiling programme has another aim besides accumulating physical stocks of strategic and critical materials. This covered development of substitutes and of conversion measures, the utilisation of low grade ores through concentration, and similar schemes which could render the United States less dependent on foreign supplies in time of war.

Remarkable progress was made in the conversion of products like tin and rubber during the Second World War, and these activities have been developed further since the passing of the Stockpiling Act of 1940. Although these did not, for the time being, affect commercial demand, they would play some part in fixing strategic stockpile objectives.

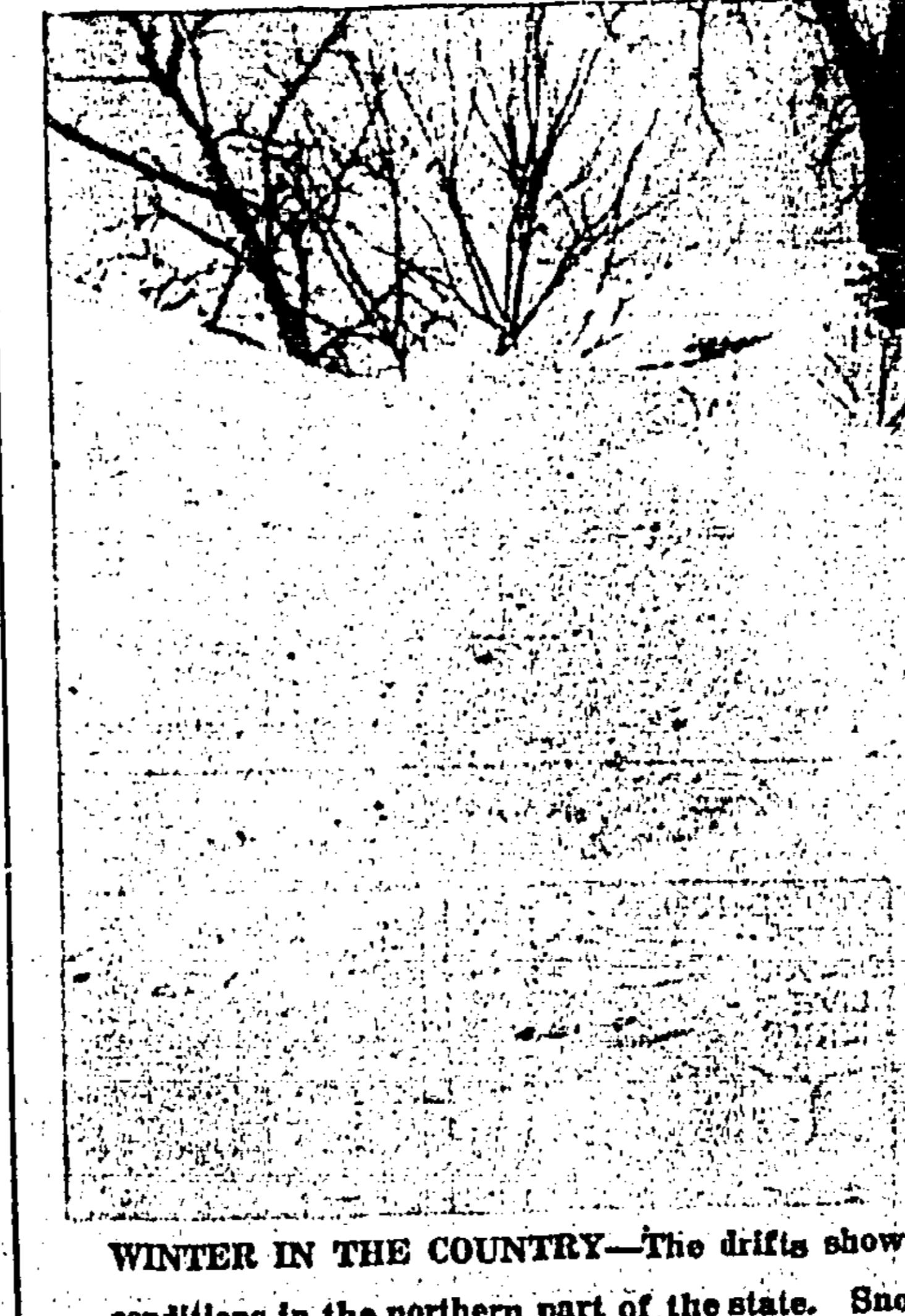
### A Meal in Itself

Spring hats displayed by New York's top milliner looked as if they had been made from breakfast foods. This effect was deliberate. "Mr. Johns," the designer, said he had tried to develop straws which looked like cornflakes and shredded wheat.



NICE AND ROSY—Janet Brett graphically models this new bathing suit in Hollywood. The sea-going style is made of a new water-repellent chintz, and is the latest thing.

BORN TO POLIO VICTIM—Girl triplets, born in Long Branch, New Jersey, to a 30-year-old mother recovering from polio, are held by nurse Elizabeth Nelson and Dr Edward Surowiec. The mother, Mrs Fred W. Wark, is the wife of a dentist and mother of two other children. The first of the triplets was delivered naturally and the other two by Caesarean section.



SHE'S GOT A JOB—Irish setter Knotty Notes Tarshan O'Kells gave birth to a 17-puppy litter in Alexandria, Virginia, and that is believed to have topped all records. Two puppies died. Dinner-time is still a problem, even with the moral support of her master, 10-year-old Alex Todd. Just now she's letting sleeping dogs lie.

WINTER IN THE COUNTRY—The drifts shown here near Eureka, South Dakota, illustrate this winter's conditions in the northern part of the state. Snow piled up as high as 18 feet in some places, and motorists left cars in garages rather than drive through drifts.





# ARMY'S CHALLENGE TO THE SCORPIONS MAY FADE OUT AT KING'S PARK

BY "RECORDER"

Army's challenge to the Scorpions may fade out at King's Park tomorrow afternoon when they take on Club de Recreio, last season's Champions, and the HKCC team may finish the week-end virtual Champions.

Army come up against a Recreio team that is approaching last season's form, with "Spotty" Pereira back and Eddie Gosano finding the form that made him one of the season's most successful bowlers last year.

The Scorpions play two matches this week-end, the first against Royal Navy at Chater Road tomorrow. On Sunday they travel out to Pukfulam to meet Uni-

The composition of Navy's team will make a lot of difference to the outcome of tomorrow's match at Chater Road, though even at their best the Navy would not start favourites. With a good team and the fortunes of cricket on their side, they may contribute to putting a little more spice into the remaining weeks of the League season.

University have beaten the Scorpions before, both at Chater Road and at Sookunpoa last season. But they are not the team they were last year and the Scorpions are a greater power today than they have ever been.

The rest of the League programme is a good one. RAF are at home to the Optimists on a matting wicket and Noel Arthy has more than a chance to score all of the 80 runs he needs for a record postwar League aggregate.

Though Optimists are away, I have a feeling that they may achieve the improbable and take all four points.

HKCC are at home to Craigmonger and will be up against a very far different team from the one that lost half a dozen wickets for barely 10 runs on the board at Cox's Road last season.

The match should be a good one, but it is difficult to predict what could happen.

## TEAMS

The following cricket teams have been selected to represent their clubs in League and friendly matches this weekend:

## NAVY

Navy 1st XI v. Scorpions, Chater Rd. tomorrow. Sub. Capt. P. O. White, Mid. Falkner, Lt. Wren, Lt. Oxtoby, Lt. Cor. Nation, Lt. Kettle, Lt. Long, Cdr. P. T. Trollope, Lt. Abraham, R. E. M. C. Umpire, Lt. Cubitt, Scorer, C. P. Jeffreys.

Navy 2nd XI v. Recreio, at King's Park tomorrow. Sub. Capt. (Capt.) Lt. P. O. Coles, S. C. P. O. Workman, C. P. O. Vale, Lt. Birks, Lt. Cdr. Murray, C. E. A. Blackett, Lt. Long, Cdr. H. G. Trollope, Lt. Abraham, R. E. M. C. Umpire, Lt. Cubitt, Scorer, C. P. Jeffreys.

Navy 3rd XI v. I. C. C. Cox's Rd. tomorrow. Sub. Capt. C. P. O. White, Mid. Falkner, Lt. Oxtoby, Lt. Cdr. Nation, Lt. Kettle, Lt. Long, Cdr. P. T. Trollope, Lt. Abraham, R. E. M. C. Umpire, Lt. Cubitt, Scorer, C. P. Jeffreys.

This is a trial game to select a combined R.N. and N.M. side for the Inter-Service Tournament.

CCG v. HKCC on Sunday at CCC (1.45 p.m.). Sub. Capt. C. P. O. White, Mid. Falkner, Lt. Oxtoby, Lt. Cdr. Nation, Lt. Kettle, Lt. Long, Cdr. P. T. Trollope, Lt. Abraham, R. E. M. C. Umpire, Lt. Cubitt, Scorer, C. P. Jeffreys.

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Army's challenge to the Scorpions may fade out at King's Park tomorrow afternoon when they take on Club de Recreio, last season's Champions, and the HKCC team may finish the week-end virtual Champions.

Army come up against a Recreio team that is approaching last season's form, with "Spotty" Pereira back and Eddie Gosano finding the form that made him one of the season's most successful bowlers last year.

The Scorpions play two matches this week-end, the first against Royal Navy at Chater Road tomorrow. On Sunday they travel out to Pukfulam to meet Uni-

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